

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1091

By West

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Phil Ponder for his meritorious service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who, through dedicated service and an unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders and have contributed substantially to the good of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is Phil Ponder, who will be honored with the 2006 John C. Tune Award at the American Cancer Society's 30th Annual April Evening event on May 6; and

WHEREAS, awarded in memory of the late John C. Tune, an active volunteer for the American Cancer Society and founder of the April Evening event, the John C. Tune Award is given in recognition of an outstanding American Cancer Society volunteer who has exemplified service and leadership in the community; and

WHEREAS, a fourteen-year cancer survivor, Phil Ponder has dedicated his life to helping the less fortunate and donating his time and talents to the Middle Tennessee community; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Florida, Mr. Ponder served with acumen and alacrity with Genesco for thirty years before retiring in 1989; and

WHEREAS, since retirement, Phil Ponder has become one of Middle Tennessee's most recognized artists, best known for his limited edition prints of skylines and famous buildings; and

WHEREAS, several of Phil Ponder's watercolors have been included in the Central South Art Exhibition sponsored by the Tennessee Art League; and

WHEREAS, his painting “Atlanta USA” received the Griffin Memorial Watercolor Award, a testament to his talent and creativity as a painter, and he has also designed all twenty-seven Holiday Ornaments for the Easter Seal Society; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to upholding the ideals of civic leadership, Mr. Ponder represented the 12th District on the Metro Council from 1995 to 2003, and, during his last year on the council, he served as President Pro Tempore; he also served on the city’s Traffic and Parking Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Greenways Commission; and

WHEREAS, committed to efficient and fair politics and government, Phil Ponder worked as the Community Liaison for Congressman Jim Cooper’s office; and

WHEREAS, making immeasurable contributions to many charitable and civic organizations, Phil Ponder has served as President of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, the Donelson-Hermitage Exchange Club, Shepards’ Center East, and the Donelson-Hermitage Old Hickory Division of the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder is also a member of the boards of numerous organizations, including the Summit Medical Center and the Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation, and he is a member of the Nashville Electric Service Audit and Ethics Committee and Chairman of the Parish Council and Finance Board of the St. Stephen Catholic Community; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Phil Ponder was awarded the Tennessee Outstanding Achievement Award by Governor Ned McWherter and the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Donelson-Hermitage Exchange Club, and he was named Business Man of the Year by the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a selfless patriot, Phil Ponder served as a United States navy officer, protecting the freedoms and principles we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Phil Ponder is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Dot; their marriage has been blessed with four children and eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponder epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to grasp this golden opportunity to recognize one of Tennessee's most dedicated and philanthropic citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and congratulate Phil Ponder upon his reception of the 2006 John C. Tune Award, commend his dutiful service to the good people of the Middle Tennessee community, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.